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DAWLISH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1951

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H. M. DAVIES.

M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER:

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

ASHBURTON U.D.C.

DAWLISH U.D.C.

NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C.

NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.

TELEPHONE No. 715/6

COUNCIL OFFICES,

KINGSTEIGNTON ROAD,

NEWTON ABBOT.

DAWLISH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT - 1951.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Annual Report for the year ending **31st, December, 1951.** The general state of the health of the community remains satisfactory and the general statistics compare favourably with those of the Administrative County of Devon and with those for England and Wales.

There was a very considerable increase in the reported cases of Whooping Cough and of Measles. The increase in the incidence of Measles was to be expected and again showed the biennial periodicity of this disease.

An odd one or two cases of Paratyphoid B have been a feature of reports by successive Medical Officers of Health during the past 30 years and, although not proved, expert observers are of the opinion that the incidence of this disease is greater in coastal districts than it is inland.

The case which is reported in this report refers to a person who arrived from the North West of the Country and must have been infected before arrival at Dawlish.

No cases of Acute Poliomyelitis are reported.

It is many years since a case of Diphtheria was reported. The need for immunisation against Diphtheria persists and it is as essential as ever if this Infectious Disease is to be kept in check.

In the statistical parts of this report it will be noted that the Birth and Death rates are calculated as 'Crude' and also as 'Corrected'.

The 'Crude' rate represents the actual figure as obtained by arithmetical proportion.

The 'Corrected' or 'Standardised' rate takes into account the difference in the distribution of the age groups and the proportion of the sexes in Dawlish as compared with the rest of the Country. The figure thus obtained gives a truer comparison between the state of affairs in this Urban District as compared with the larger units of population.

I should like to thank the Chairman, Councillors, and all members of the staff for help and co-operation received during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	6,091.
Population Mid - 1951	7,084.
Population 1951 Census.....	7,512.
Rateable value as at 1st. January, 1951.....	£. 51,019.
Rateable value as at 31st. December, 1951	£. 51,491.
Product of 1d. rate (as at 1st. April, 1951)	£. 209.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	41	42	83
Illegitimate	1	1	2
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	42	43	85.
	-----	-----	-----
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population			- 11.99
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population			- 13.79
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population			
Administrative County of Devon			- 13.46
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population			
Administrative County of Devon			- 14.81
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England			
and Wales.....			- 15.5.

STILL BIRTHS,

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Still Birth rate per 1000 total population			- 0.14
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births-			11.62
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still			
births England and Wales			- 22.9.

DEATHS.

During the year the average age at death, from all causes, was found to be 72.13 years, this figure shows a slight decrease on that of 1950 which was 72.76 years.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
	47	67	114
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population			- 16.09
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population			- 11.26
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			- 15.45.
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			- 11.74.
Death rate per 1000 total population England and Wales			- 12.5.

Infant Mortality.

(Death of Infants under One year of age)

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Infant Mortality rate (Death of Infants under One year) per 1000 related live births			- 23.53.
Infant Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon			- 27.91.
Corresponding rate England and Wales			- 29.6.

Neo-Natal Mortality.

(Death of Infants under 4 weeks of age)

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Neo-Natal Mortality rate (Death of Infants under four weeks) per 1000 related live births			- 23.53.
Neo-Natal Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon			- 19.43.
Corresponding rate England and Wales			- 18.8.

Maternal Mortality.

No maternal deaths have occurred during the past year. The Maternal Mortality rate for the Administrative County of Devon is 0.88, six cases having occurred within the County during 1951.

AGE AT DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
Infants under 4 weeks	1	1
Infants under 1 year	1	1
1 -	-	1
5 -	-	-
15 -	-	-
25 -	2	1
45 -	11	11
65 -	12	16
75 and over	20	36
	-----	-----
	47.	67.
	-----	-----

Total: 114.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
All causes	47	67
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	10
Coronary disease, angina	6	6
	-----	-----
c/fwd.	16	25

CAUSES OF DEATH (contd.)

	Male.	Female.
b/fwd.	16	25
Hypertension with heart disease	4	1
Other Heart disease	15	26
Other circulatory disease	3	3
Influenza	1	2
Pneumonia	1	3
Bronchitis	3	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	1
All other accidents	-	1
	<u>47</u>	<u>67</u>

Total: 114.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	3	2	5
Whooping Cough	42	28	70
Measles	53	46	99
Paratyphoid B. (visitor)	1	-	1
	<u>99.</u>	<u>76.</u>	<u>175.</u>

Total: 175.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Eight cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. Details are set out in the following table:-

TUBERCULOSIS (contd.)

<u>AGE PERIODS:</u>		<u>CASES:</u>	
		M.	F.
Infants under one year		-	-
1	-	-	-
5	-	-	-
15	-	1	-
25	-	2	-
45	-	3	-
65	-	1	1
75 and over		-	-
		-----	-----
		7	1
		-----	-----

Total: 8.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

During the year there was nothing of importance to record except that again there were a few complaints of fouling of the main beach.

WATER SUPPLY.

Bacteriological analysis of the water supply was carried out at intervals and all reports received were excellent. During the year the water supply was maintained in an efficient state there being only slight restrictions during the month of August. No domestic consumer was in any way restricted.

CAMPING.

The Council's own tenting camping site was equipped with flush lavatories ready for the 1952 season which will do away with the burial of excreta etc., and will make this field one of the best sites in the District.
